

Baptism in the Holy Spirit

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Luke 3

15 The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah.

16 John answered them all, “I baptize you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 17 His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.” 18 And with many other words John exhorted the people and proclaimed the good news to them.

21 When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened 22 and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.”

23 Now Jesus himself was about thirty years old when he began his ministry.

4:1 Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness,² where for forty days he was tempted by the devil.

NOTICE the wonderful picture of the Trinity v21-22

Jesus, Spirit, Father

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS PART OF OUR IDENTITY AS CHRISTIANS.

It is so important to know who we are and in whom we stand.

Ephesians and Paul tells us over and over again that we are in Christ. This is identity language. I am in Christ, a new creation. In Christ I can do all things. I am chosen in Him, I am alive in Christ. The Bible also tells us that: I am a child of God, beloved of the Father, I belong to God and I can call Him Abba: Dad

But there's another part of this picture of our spiritual identity that we may have missed or are ignoring or know less about.

And that is that the Holy Spirit dwells in us and empowers us.

JOHN THE BAPTIST said to the people:

“I baptise you with water for repentance but after me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry. HE WILL BAPTISE (immerse, dip, drench) YOU WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT and with fire.” Matthew 3:11

There are three normal steps for believers to take:

- 1. Salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. (repentance, receiving forgiveness and the gift of eternal life)**
- 2. Water baptism as a public declaration of receiving and following Jesus Christ.**
- 3. Receiving the fullness of the Holy Spirit (to be empowered for Christian living and service.)**

Luke says:

JESUS WAS FULL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness,² where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. Luke 4:1

Here's one mighty important reason to take note of our need of the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

We can add to our declarative language:

I am filled with the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit lives in me.

I am led by the Spirit.

I am living a life of **fullness** in tune with the Spirit.

BAPTISM IN THE SPIRIT means an additional something. There is more than repentance and water baptism – It's an immersing in the Holy Spirit.

Baptism in water or into the Name of Jesus Christ is different to baptism in the Holy Spirit.

Acts 8: 14-17

¹⁴ When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to Samaria. ¹⁵ When they arrived, they prayed for the new believers there that they might receive the Holy Spirit, ¹⁶ because the Holy Spirit had not yet come on any of them; they had simply been **baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus**. ¹⁷ Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

What distinguishes the two baptisms?

There is a clear distinction here between the two baptisms. One involves water and the other the laying on of hands. One is about declaring to whom you belong publically and the other is about releasing the power of God into your life.

Acts 10: 44-48

⁴⁴ While Peter was still speaking these words, the **Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message**. ⁴⁵ The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on Gentiles. ⁴⁶ For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God.

Then Peter said, ⁴⁷ "Surely no one can stand in the way of their being baptized with water. They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have." ⁴⁸ So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked Peter to stay with them for a few days.

What is the difference between the two baptisms here? Speaking in tongues, praise. The Holy Spirit just comes, no laying on of hands. Healing happens in the wake of the Holy Spirit. No human intervention is necessary!

Water baptism is synonymous with baptism into the Name of Jesus.

What do you notice about the order? It's reversed.

There isn't a rule which says one comes before the other and neither is needed for salvation.

The third time a distinction is made is in Ephesus:

Acts 19: 1-6

While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples ² and asked them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?"

They answered, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit."

³ So Paul asked, "Then what baptism did you receive?"

"John's baptism," they replied.

⁴ Paul said, "John's baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus." ⁵ On hearing this, they were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶ When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied.

Here we have three baptisms contrasted.

- The baptism of John which was for repentance and preparation to receive Jesus.
- Baptism into the Name of Jesus.
- The laying on of hands for the fullness of the Spirit. And tongues and prophecy are noted as signs.

Now you might say to me, Helen:

Don't you get the Holy Spirit at conversion?

Yes but not to the full capacity that God would love you to experience.

Remember, in Act 19, the disciples had repented and turned to Christ but had not yet heard of the Holy Spirit's baptism. Therefore it is possible to be "saved" by repentance and faith in Christ without having received the Holy Spirit in full measure.

You have the Holy Spirit in you at conversion. There is no doubt about this. When Jesus leaves He imparts the Spirit to the disciples.

On Resurrection Sunday

²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

²¹ Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." ²² And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit."

But then before he leaves He says:

DP 10 ⁴"Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. ⁵ For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

It seems clear that while they had the Holy Spirit within them, they had not received the Holy Spirit in the full measure that Jesus was then talking about and telling them to wait for.

What was the purpose?

Power and boldness to be witnesses, to know what to say and how to say it.

- Although the disciples were with Jesus for three years and saw miracle after miracle, they still ran off and deserted Jesus. But after the day of Pentecost we see bold disciples, prepared to die for Jesus. That is the difference

WITHOUT THE full release of the BAPTISM OF THE SPIRIT

- a church looks like a club.
- We will lack passion and fire.
- We strive and work harder.
- **We will not see people come to know Jesus. The reality is we need help to fulfill both the great Commission and the Great Commandment.**
 - We will not see the working of the gifts of the Spirit.

- We will not see miracles and transformation take place in the world.
- We will not know how to stand up to the devil and to temptation.

Many of us have been troubled by the church's expression of the Holy Spirit over the years.
What's on my heart today is that it is a new day.

What I don't want us to do is throw the baby out with the bathwater.

What failure is in an invitation to grow up and get some new skills and insights and to figure out how God really wants the Spirit to be in us

Two things that are clear in the Word are:

1. That we are to go on being filled with the Spirit. Be filled with the Spirit is a continuous tense. It's always a new day and we always need the Spirit to help us and to refresh.
2. We are to be careful not to quench the Spirit.

I want to say something briefly about tongues.

It seems to me there are 2 ways of looking at this.

The first is clearly there is a public gift of tongues which when used in a meeting needs to be interpreted.

The second is that the heavenly languages -tongues is available to all believers baptised in the Spirit for at least 2 reasons.

This isn't just for fun. The tongue is given to be used to edify to build yourself up in the Lord or in his mighty power and strength.

Jude ²⁰ But you, dear friends, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, ²¹ keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.

Secondly, the tongue is given to help us pray, when we have no idea what to say, we pray in tongues and sometimes we will have a sense of what we are interceding for which comes from the gut.

Romans 8:26 In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. ²⁷ And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.

I pray in tongues when I walk or exercise. 15 minutes a day is a helpful spiritual exercise if you really want to yield yourself to the leading of the Holy Spirit.